

A BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS OF TRENDS IN ISLAMIC THEOLOGY RESEARCH: MAPPING THE LANDSCAPE OF SCHOLARLY CONTRIBUTIONS

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Abstract

This study provides a comprehensive overview of research developments in the field of Islamic theology over the past two decades. Utilizing data from Scopus-indexed databases, the research conducts a bibliometric analysis to identify publication trends, international author collaborations, and emerging thematic areas within the discipline. The findings reveal a steady increase in scholarly output and a diversification of research topics, reflecting the growing relevance of Islamic theology in addressing contemporary global challenges. A notable trend is the rise in cross-national academic cooperation, indicating the increasing globalization of Islamic theological discourse. This study not only maps key contributors and institutions but also uncovers interdisciplinary linkages, particularly with fields such as ethics, environmental studies, and social sciences. By highlighting understudied areas and gaps in the literature, the analysis offers valuable insights for future research directions. Overall, the study captures the dynamic evolution of Islamic theology and its expanding role in global academic inquiry.

Keywords: Islamic theology; Bibliometric analysis; Interdisciplinary research; Globalization; Scopus; Academic collaboration; Research trends

INTRODUCTION

Islamic theology, or *Ilm al-Kalam*, is a deeply rooted and historically rich discipline that has evolved significantly over time. It traditionally encompasses core theological themes such as the nature of God, the role of prophets, the interpretation of sacred texts, and principles of moral conduct. Historically, Islamic theology was grounded in classical texts and doctrinal interpretations. However, the complexities of the modern, globalized world have necessitated a broader, more interdisciplinary approach. Contemporary scholars increasingly draw from fields such as philosophy, sociology, psychology, and the natural sciences to enrich theological inquiry and address the multifaceted challenges facing Muslim communities today (Khalifa et al., 2022). This shift reflects the influence of globalization, rapid technological advancement, and emerging social issues on the evolution of Islamic thought. In contrast to earlier methods, modern approaches utilize diverse methodologies to more effectively articulate Islamic teachings within contemporary contexts.

Globalization technological advancements among other factors have affected the evolution of Islamic theology; hence the emergence of this field that was initially supposed to stand on purely religion concepts that were being translated through revelation which gave more attention to understanding and interpreting Quran alone with few topics on hadiths only. Nowadays progressive scholars apply modern means leading to better comprehension about Islam fundamentals together with their practical application within present world contexts (AlJahsh, 2024). This allows Islamic theology to address critical interdisciplinary secular issues such as bioethics, human rights, and environmental ethics. These issues require an understanding that goes beyond the boundaries of conventional religiosity. The importance of integrating insights from multiple disciplines is indescribable, as it brings to light religious dimensions that have been ignored in previous Orthodox studies (Malik, 2023). On the one hand,

theology and psychology combined can reveal spiritual well-being, while on the other hand, they can shed light on the community dynamics associated with beliefs and practices.

In addition, interdisciplinary approaches enhance the applicability of Islamic theology in the contemporary world. Even as Muslims face complex issues such as crises of identity, ethics, and social justice, a flexible and responsive theological discourse is needed. In essence, such engagement makes Islamic theology demonstrate its empirical relevance to current issues and fosters positive relationships between religion and modernization (Mardiana et al., 2020). For example, collaborations between theologians and environmental scientists are potential sources of insights into Islamic approaches to environmental protection, thus contributing to global sustainable development projects. These partnerships enrich academic discourses while influencing community policy-making processes. In this study, the multidisciplinary approaches in Islamic theology will be analyzed in detail. This study looks at the body of existing literature to identify important trends, recurring themes, and groundbreaking works that have influenced the conversation on this subject (Elihami et al., 2025). Examining publication trends in interdisciplinary Islamic theology over the last ten years, identifying the most cited works and authors, mapping network collaborations between academics and research institutions, evaluating the influence of interdisciplinarity on Islamic theological developments, and identifying new issues and future research in Islamic studies are the primary specific goals (Donthu et al., 2021). While interdisciplinary approaches to Islamic theology are becoming more popular, there hasn't been a thorough analysis that systematically addresses these trends. Although some studies may only touch on the points where theology and other fields meet, they hardly ever offer a complete picture of this enormous field.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Overview of Islamic Theology

Islamic theology, also known as Ilmu Kalam, has a centuries-long intellectual heritage that has covered subjects like the attributes of God, the function of prophets, and the interpretation of the Bible. Scholars have mostly taught or studied Islamic theology using ancient texts and interpretations, which has resulted in derived doctrines (Alu 2020). Therefore, scholars such as Al-Ghazālī and Ibn Rushd used reason and rationality as the primary means of understanding faith in their theological discourses. However, globalization has necessitated the study of Islamic theology from a variety of interdisciplinary perspectives, such as sociology, psychology, philosophy, and the natural sciences.

Interdisciplinary Approaches in Islamic Theology

Additionally, it is noteworthy that Muslim theology has become more interdisciplinary. Scholars have therefore attempted to employ various methods in order to gain a deeper understanding of Islam and its applicability to modern life. Consider the intersection of psychology and theology, which has resulted in studies of religious practices and human health (Rahman, 2025). This means that it makes it easier for us to understand Islamic theology and draws attention to the variety of Muslim views on current international issues. Recent studies have documented the increasing importance of interdisciplinary research in addressing new issues like biomedicine, environmental ethics, and human rights. One example is how Islamic ethical teachings address contemporary bioethical issues, demonstrating that religious principles can contribute to current ethical debates. It Sulaiman (2023) argue that more needs to be done at the interface of Islamic theology and psychology to develop Muslim models.

Current Trends in Research

Islamic theology as a field of study is undergoing significant changes due to globalization, technological advances, and new social issues. Theological discussions have become more dynamic and adaptable due to the wider acceptance of diverse viewpoints by scholars. In this environment, it is important to take into account changes in religious beliefs and traditions. Therefore, Islamic theology must apply interdisciplinarity to demonstrate its relevance in the current world, thereby creating a dialogue between religion and progress (Muttaqin & Suyurno 2024). Recent publications have suggested an increased interdisciplinary work among scholars, as it helps to address complex social problems by simultaneously using multiple approaches. Nevertheless, there is no comprehensive overview of interdisciplinary scholarship in Islamic theology.

Gaps in Current Research

Despite the increasing adoption of this interdisciplinary perspective, there are still significant gaps in Islamic theology to be filled. A major problem is the lack of systematic analysis that reveals how these tendencies have influenced different interdisciplinary methods. While several such studies have focused on specific correlations, it is still important to examine what this approach has done in general and what obstacles it overcomes for Islamic theological studies (Daniel et al., 2022). The literature also almost never addresses how these models relate to scholarly thinking and practical realities within the Muslim community. Scholars need to remember how their discourses have shaped contemporary ideas about Islamic theology and its applicability today. It is challenging for academics in the field to cooperate and innovate, however, because there aren't many bibliographic reviews that are organized to highlight important works, leading authors, or emerging themes among researchers. Empirical research can also be done to look at how interdisciplinarity influences Islamic theology as a branch of academia, with an emphasis on environmental preservation, social justice, and moral issues raised by scientific

advancements (Newman, 2023). It also provides a summary of the current multidisciplinary literature on Islamic theology. This study seeks to develop an Islamic theology that deals with the myriad problems that Muslims face globally and the intricacies of modern life.

METHODOLOGY

Description of the Research Design

This study uses bibliometric analysis as its primary research method to find trends in the field of Islamic theology and its interdisciplinary connection. Bibliographic analysis uses statistical methods to map, examine, and assess published materials. This process evaluates how changes are represented over time by looking at citation networks, publication trends, and scholarly contributions to particular subjects (Asari et al., 2024). The research agenda answers these questions about the development of Islamism by considering shifts in the volume of publications, topics covered, their locations, and scholarly collaborations. It also addresses relationships with other disciplines, including bioethics, sociology, or environmental studies. Web of Science indexes some of the top journals, while Google Scholar has all sorts of documents, such as grey literature, that cover everything that is happening in the field. Finally, it connects many scholars from all over the world and different countries around the world who have contributed to the scholarship of Islamic theology.

Participants and Sampling Procedure

The study consists of some academic content, books, and conference papers published in some selected Islamic theology databases. The sampling process involves a methodical search for relevant literature using specific words and standards. Here are the inclusion criteria for the sample. Focus on Islamic theology: This study focuses only on works that deal with Islamic theology. Such publications must cover a variety of topics, such as Islamic philosophy, morality, and interfaith dialogue (Hiebl, 2021). Language of publication: To ensure accessibility and relevance to the target audience, only English and Arabic publications are considered in the analysis. Year of publication: This analysis used data collected over a two-decade period from 2003 to 2023, as they indicate current trends in Islamic theological studies. The sample of works from 2003 to 2023 was selected so that researchers could capture issues related to the growth of contemporary Islamic theology. The number of relevant publications retrieved from the databases determines the number of samples that the authors use in their work (Saimassayeve et al., 2025). The screening process following the initial search aims to eliminate duplicate studies or those that do not meet the inclusion criteria set by the departmental review committee above. This is done to ensure that only high-quality and relevant publications are included in our analysis. Finally, to provide us with a large enough sample to be representative for the bibliometric analysis.

Data Collection Methods

This study collects data through a set of systematically designed steps that assure the precision and adequacy of the involved literature. The methods of data collection are mentioned below:

- **Keyword search:** A combination of keywords about Islamic theology is used to generate relevant publications. Key phrases such as “Islamic theology,” “Islamic science,” “Islamic philosophy,” “Islamic ethics,” and Ilmu Kalam will be included to cover extensive literature. By use of titles and abstracts, the search engine ensures that it encompasses all literature.
- **Database search:** These selected databases (Scopus, Web of Science, and Google Scholar) are explored with identified key words. The search is made narrower to include articles published between 2003 and 2023 in order to capture current trends.
- **Screening process:** As soon as the initial data gets collected, screening is usually done to remove those duplicates within them but also irrelevant publications get excluded (Velez-Estevez et al., 2023). This stage makes sure only relevant materials which have high quality are included for analysis.
- **Data extraction:** It involves removing key details from every publication including title, author(s), year of publication, journal name, citation count and keywords. This provides basic data for later analysis which can be easily referenced.

This study uses these methods to gather data in order to provide a thorough approach to research activities in Islamic theology.

Data Analysis Techniques

Several bibliometric techniques are used to analyze the data, giving a broad picture of the developments and trends in Islamic theological research. The first tools for summarizing this data are descriptive statistics, including the total number of publications, distribution of publications by country and language, and trends in publications over time. You will get a broad idea of what Islamic theology is (Ejaz et al., 2022). A subsequent citation analysis identifies the most frequently cited works and authors in the region; it indicates influential works or individuals who have contributed to the discussion, and also highlights some singularity effects. Using co-authorship analysis, which highlights other scholars in the field by displaying co-authors from various institutions and individuals who work on Islamic theology, scholarly collaboration is examined.

Thematic analysis of this study has also brought to light new ideas and research avenues. Thematic sections or clusters can be used to describe the relationship of related subjects in a given field (Kiger & Varpio, 2020).

Additionally, we can visualize the relationships among authors and frequently cited papers using network analysis Thanks to it.

RESULTS

Islamic theology has evolved significantly over time as a result of shifting philosophical debates, cultural exchanges, and societal values. From 2013 to 2024, this bibliometric study aims to examine patterns and methodologies in Islamic theology research. Growth in publications, trends in citation, evaluation of different types of documents influence on a particular field can be quantitatively evaluated through bibliometric methods (Siraj et al., 2020). These findings show the current trends in Islamic theological research. In particular, the number of publications, which totalled 130 in 2021, show in Figure 1, demonstrates a growing interest in Islam, catalyzed by global political situations that provoke religious conversations. The COVID-19 pandemic may also have contributed to the increased engagement of scholars. Although the number of publications had slightly decreased to 122 publications in 2022, this shows that Islamic theology is dynamic, driven by changes in educational policy, funding, and shifts in what academics consider important at any given time.

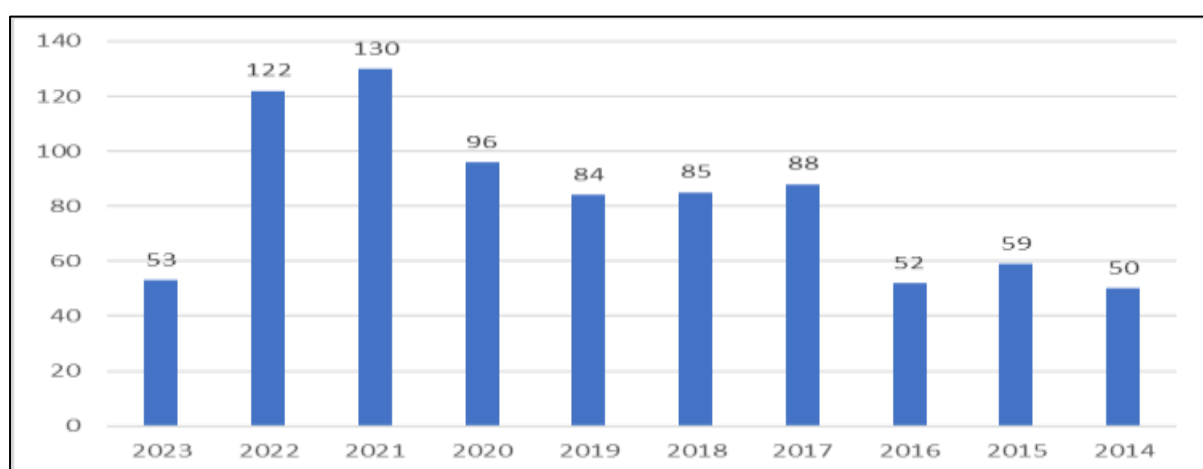


Figure 1. Publication of Islamic Theology Research According to Years

1. Publication on Islamic Theology by Document Type: An analysis of the publications of the Islamic theology document type shows the scholarly contribution of the existing literature. A total of 518 publications can be grouped under "articles", making them the primary means by which scholars present their findings, as shown in Figure 2. Articles are likely preferred because they take less time to publish and are accessible, unlike other formats. In addition, there are 117 "book chapters" and 92 "books", which provide detailed analyses that did not fit into shorter articles. In addition, there are 71 reviews, which represent the evaluation stage of existing works, thus creating meta-analyses that help provide a comprehensive overview of trends in Islamic theology. Other document types include 8 editorials, 7 conference papers, 4 notes, 1 editorial, and 1 letter, representing less academic writing among them (Gassouma & Benhamed, 2023). Editorials and conference papers facilitate discussion among scholars, notes and editorials are short inputs and clarifications, respectively. In general, the different types of documents reflect the complexity of this field, indicating that knowledge flows through multiple channels and scholarly discussions take place in different contexts within this discipline.

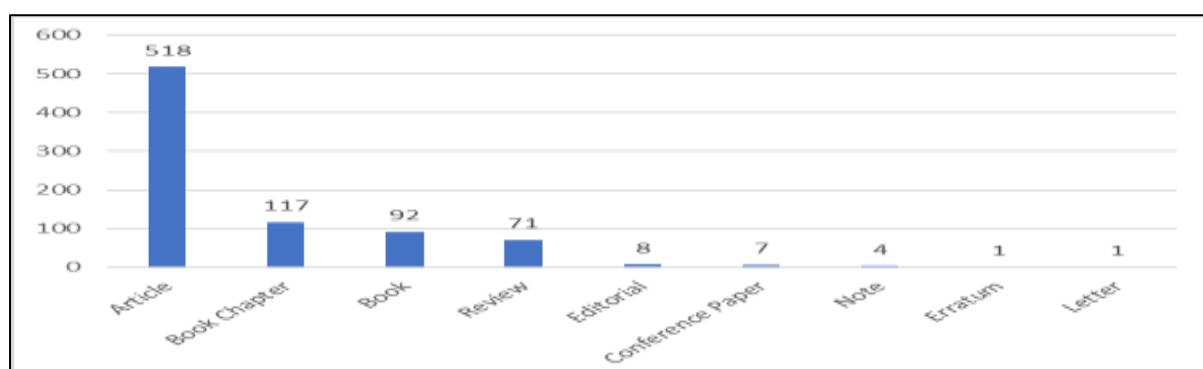


Figure 2. Publication on Islamic Theology according to document type

2. Publication of Islamic theology research by country: Research publications on Islamic theology, based on country data, show that the discipline has a wide geographical distribution of knowledge show in Figure 3. The United States leads the field with 178 publications, and the United States dominates among scholars and

researchers studying Islamic theology. England (91 publications) and Indonesia (65 publications) show the production of knowledge in this field from the Western and Islamic worlds, respectively. According to this report, it can be observed that Germany and Turkey published 55 articles each, while Malaysia published 37 articles, indicating a strong involvement of European and Southeast Asian countries, respectively. Other countries such as Canada (31), Iran (31), Australia (27) and Russia (21) show the geographical scope of Islamic theological studies. This shows that Italy (20), the Netherlands (17), Israel (16), South Africa (14) and the United Arab Emirates are also concerned about what students from other parts of the world are studying about Islamic theology (Rehman et al., 2022). These numbers indicate good international cooperation among Islamic theologians, which requires a cross-continental effort to understand. However, there are still 65 with limited information and little contribution to the field, indicating that more research is needed.

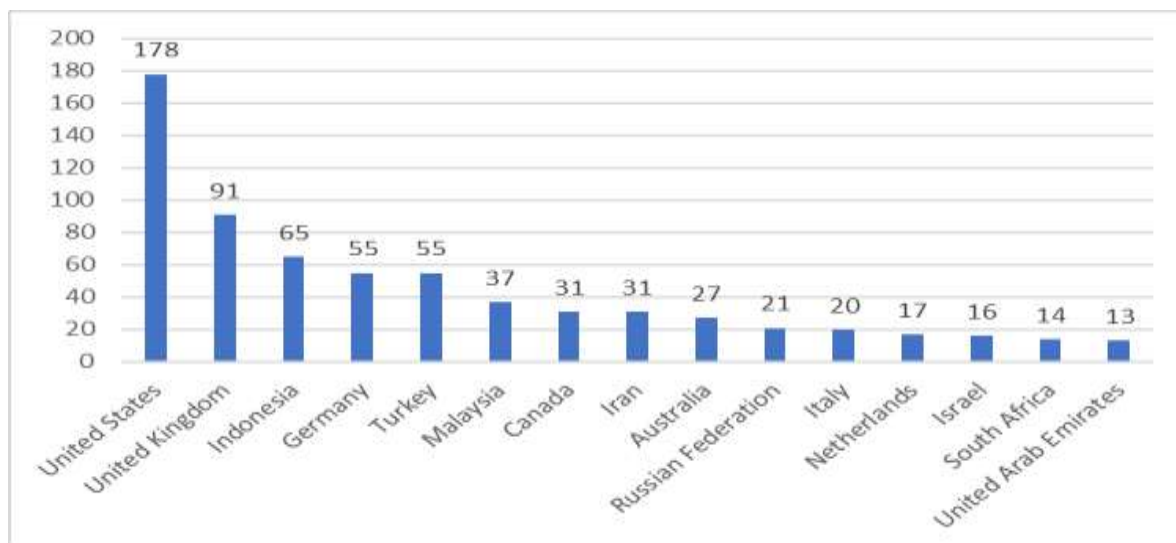


Figure 3. Publication of Islamic Theology research according to countries

3. Research Publications in Islamic Theology by Language: According to the Islamic Theology Studies, English is the most popular language with 745 publications, indicating that it is the global language of scholarly communication show in Figure 4. This has allowed scholars from different countries to share their findings widely. According to Woltran and Schwab (2024), Turkey ranks second with 24 research papers, indicating that scholars from Turkic-speaking nations are involved in this discussion. Other languages, like French (9), and Russian (16), are also used in the literature, demonstrating how major languages predominate in various studies. Additionally, there are publications in other languages, including Persian, Malay, and Spanish. These numbers may not be very high, but they still contribute to the global discussion of Islamic theology. The fact that scholars from every nation speak different languages shows how important this subject is to people all over the world. This shows how important multilingualism is in increasing knowledge and making Islamic theology more accessible and inclusive.

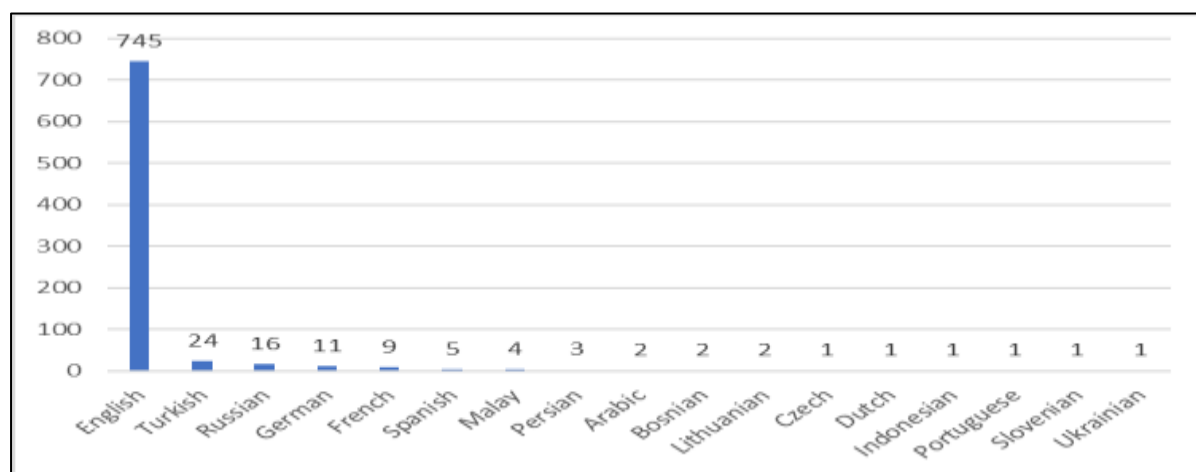


Figure 4. Research Publications in Islamic Theology by Language:

4. Publication of Islamic Theology according to research areas: The emphasis on the arts and humanities is clearly visible in Islamic theology research publications, with 665 publications mainly on literary studies, history and philosophy of religion show in Figure 5. In addition, as evidenced by the 403 research papers studying the social, cultural and political contexts of Islam, the social sciences have made significant contributions to the field. Medicine and psychology have smaller contributions with 31 and 16 papers respectively; these are important

because they address issues such as mental health and medical ethics from an Islamic perspective (Kader, 2021). In addition, business, management and accounting; economics and finance have a total of 13 publications that show how economic issues relate to Islamic principles. Nursing; environmental science; other scientific disciplines contributed from one to nine papers, demonstrating the interdisciplinary nature of Islamic theology research. The above information reflects the different approaches to the study of Islamic theology in different academic settings, including its place in the humanities and sciences.

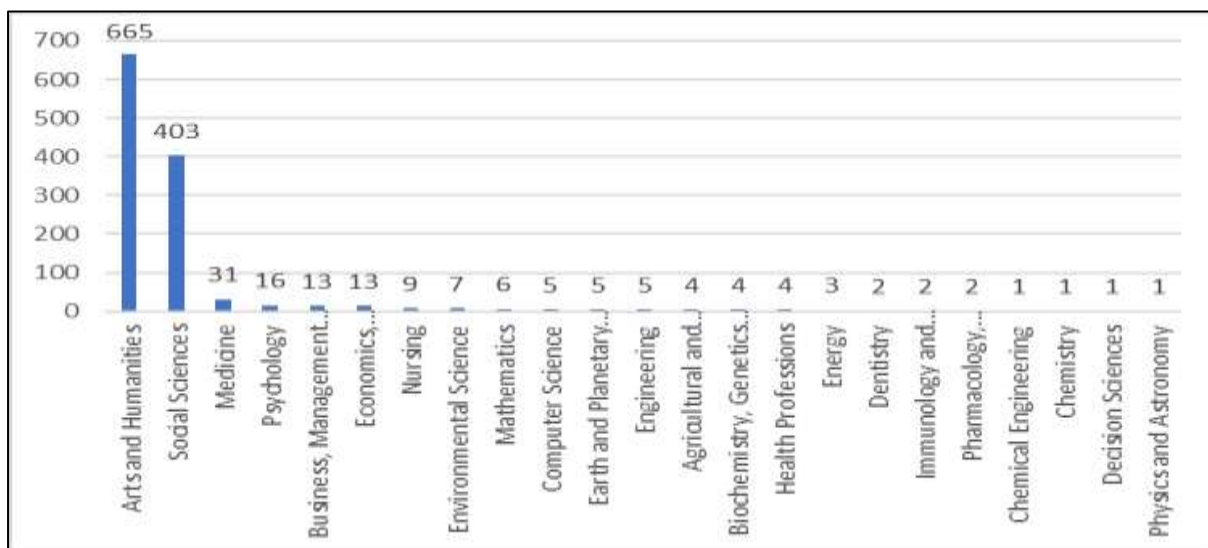


Figure 5. Publication of Islamic Theology according to research areas

5. Publication of Islamic Theology according to organizations: Islamic theology research has been carried out by a variety of global institutions and it can be seen from the data that the University of Oxford has contributed the most with 15 publications, which reinforces its central role in advancing this discipline show in Figure 6. Other highly ranked institutions include the University of Chicago (10 publications), Universit t I Oslo and Eberhard Karls Universit t T bingen (9 each), reflecting the involvement of a variety of organizations. At least 7 or 8 papers have been produced by Universitas Malaya, Yale University, Sunan Kalinago State Islamic University and Universitas Kebangsaan Malaysia, which clearly shows how important Malaysian and Indonesian institutions are in this field. Similarly, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universit t Munich and SOAS University of London have six articles each, reflecting a wide range in regards to the locations where Islamic theology research is being carried out (Alfawzan et al., 2024). It can thus be estimated that 160 universities have contributed at least six articles, indicating the extent to which Islamic theology has been advanced on a global level through collaboration, and the emphasis placed on cross-cultural understanding for the advancement of knowledge in this field.

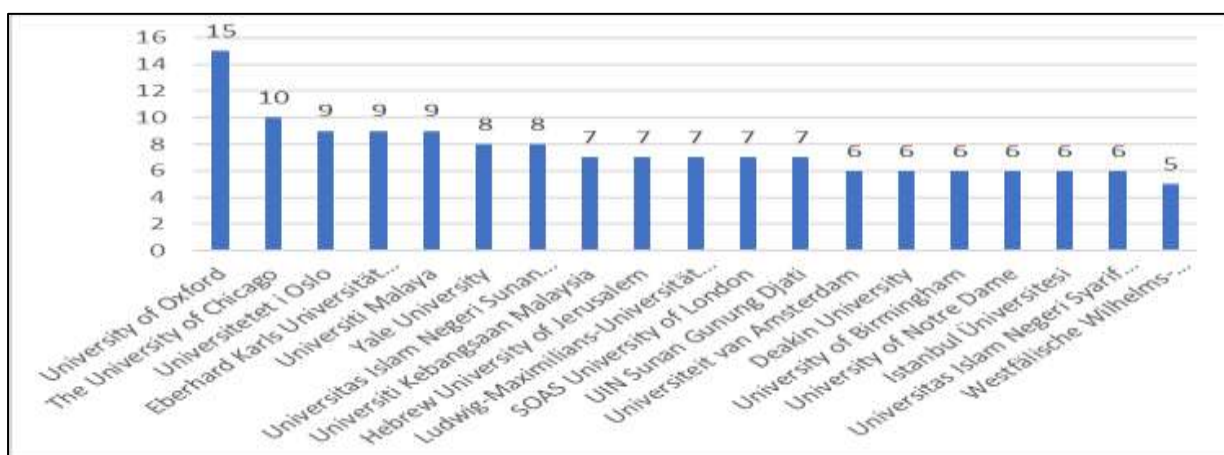


Figure 6. Publication of Islamic Theology according to organizations

6. Publication on Islamic Theology according to authors: This data identifies several researchers who have significantly contributed to Islamic Theology research show in Figure 7. Malik, SA, and Padula, AI, each with six publications, demonstrate their important role in advancing understanding in this field (Mishra et al., 2024). In addition, researchers such as Akbar, A., Demichelis, M., and Hashes, M., with four publications each, as well as Abdullah, H., Adamson, P., and Ahsan, A., with three publications, reflect consistent and diverse contributions to the scientific literature on Islamic Theology. These data reflect the diversity of researchers actively developing

knowledge about Islamic Theology, with leading researchers involved in a wide range of research projects and publications on this topic.

Interestingly, this publication was published by 169 authors, who only considered publication necessary in 6 cases. This may be because they prefer to keep their personal lives private or do not have enough data to fully identify the author. In scientific research, privacy is important to many scholars who focus on the content and results of their research. In contrast, author identity becomes more relevant in peer-reviewed publications or where there is a broader scholarly discourse (Fox, 2021). Nevertheless, the collaboration of these scholars with 163 other unnamed writers has contributed to our understanding of Islamic theology and has demonstrated the importance of international sharing and diversification of scholars.

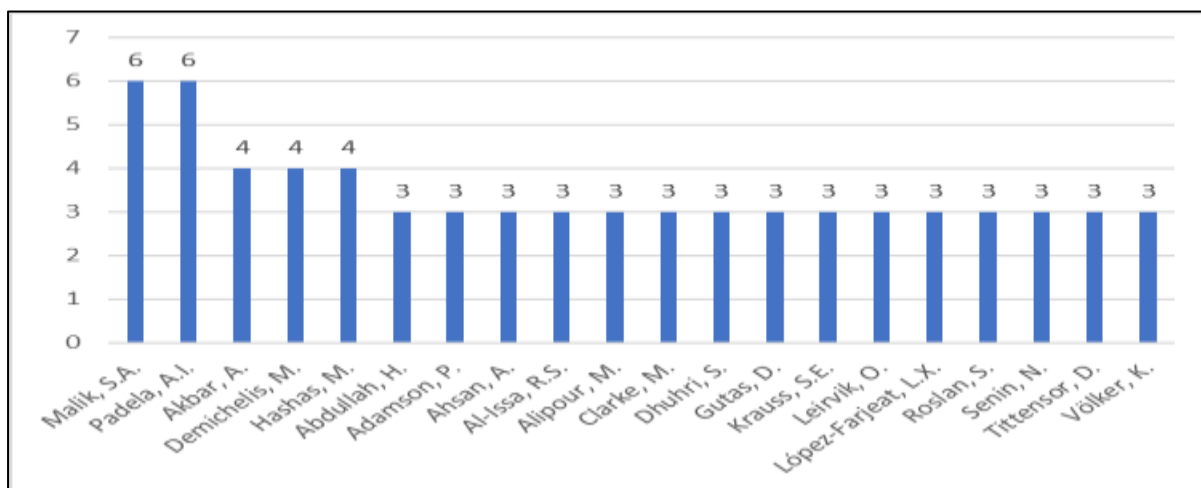


Figure 7. Publication on Islamic Theology according to authors

7. Most globally cited documents: Data on frequently cited articles reveals their significant influence in academic literature, as shown in Figure 8. For instance, R. Stark's 2015 article, "For The Glory of God: How Monotheism Led to Reformations, Science, Witch-Hunts, and The End of Slavery," has garnered 132 citations, averaging 14.67 per year, despite lacking a DOI. Its normalized total citation of 21.51 underscores its substantial impact on global scholarly discourse. In contrast, N. El-Bassoon's 2014 article in "J BUS RES," which has a DOI (10.1016/j.jbusres.2013.03.010), has been cited 85 times, with a normalized total citation of 12.18, highlighting its academic relevance. Additionally, A. Sudaria's 2017 paper, "The Imperatives of Progressive Islam," cited 27 times, demonstrates that even articles with fewer citations can significantly influence their fields (Ali, 2024). Overall, this citation analysis illustrates how these works foster interdisciplinary dialogue and contribute to advancing knowledge across various research domains.

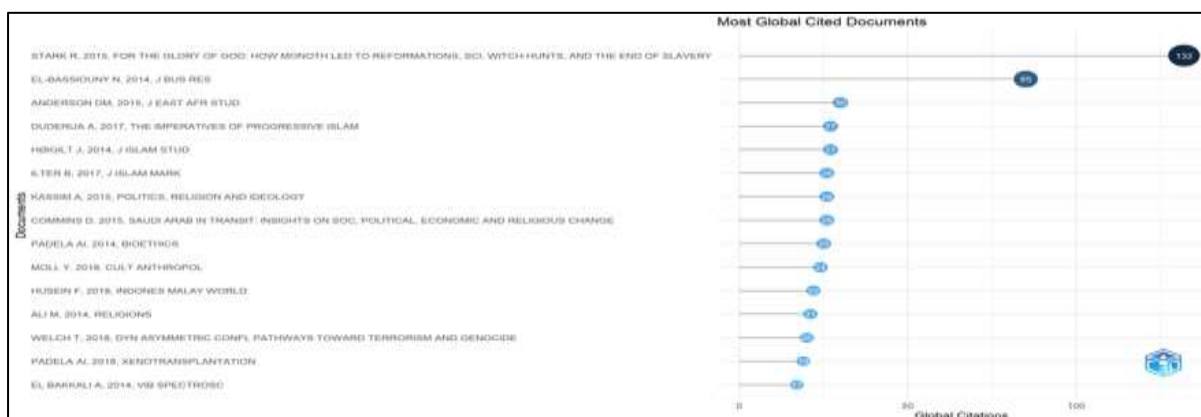


Figure 8. Most globally cited documents.

8. Word Cloud Analysis: Islamic theology research: Word cloud analysis of the data reveals a large variety of topics found in academic literature shown in Figure 9. With 34 appearances, it has become the most frequently used term in the search, indicating its centrality and people's interest in this religion. It is also worth noting that "human" and "religion" appear equally often (21 times each), thus emphasizing the exploration of the interrelationships between Islam and humanity (Ulfat, 2024). Furthermore, 19 instances of "Islamism" indicate ideological and political dimensions while 18 occurrences of "theology" underscore Islamic theological debates as a topic of scholarly interest.

Furthermore, six references to both "bioethics" and "ethics" prove that these topics receive considerable attention in medical contexts. Gender-focused studies can be identified through the use of terms such as 'male' and 'female'.

Also, by mentioning Turkey, Indonesia, the United Kingdom and the USA it is clear that this paper uses cross-national comparisons (De La Torre-Sierra & Guichot-Reina, 2022). In general, this word cloud covers various aspects of research related to religiosity, including religion, ethics, politics, history or culture.

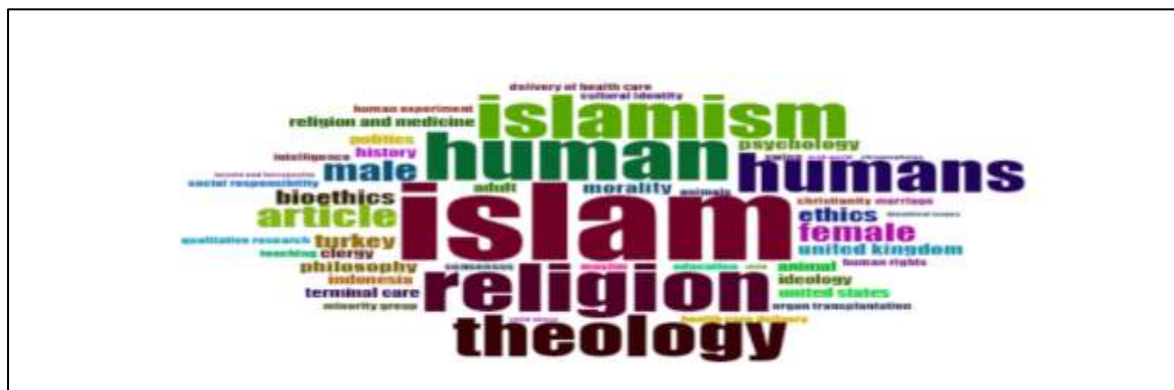


Figure 9. Word Cloud Analysis

9. Trending topics: Bibliometric analysis of research trends in Islamic theology through keyword data shows a rich picture of focuses and developments in the academic literature show in Figure 10. The keywords "Islam" and "religion" appear most frequently, with peak appearances in 2018 and 2017, respectively, indicating a strong focus on studying Islam and religious issues in a theological context. In addition, the keyword "human," which peaked in 2018, indicates interest in humanitarian aspects from the perspective of Islamic theology, while "ethics" indicates increased attention to ethical issues Husamah et al. (2025), especially from 2015 to 2018. The keywords "bioethics" and "Islamism" also highlight research related to bioethics and the Islamist movement in theology, with peak appearances in 2016 and 2018, respectively. These data reflect interest in contemporary issues affecting Islamic theology. "Male" and "female" are keywords used to discuss gender issues; they were first widely used in 2018 and 2020. In addition, searches for keywords such as "Turkey" and "United Kingdom" indicate scholars' interest in comparative Islamic studies in different national contexts, indicating the geographical spread of this research (Tuki, 2024). In short, this study provides important information about where the field of Islamic theology was moving in these years, allowing scholars to discover emerging patterns and pressing issues that require more research in this area.

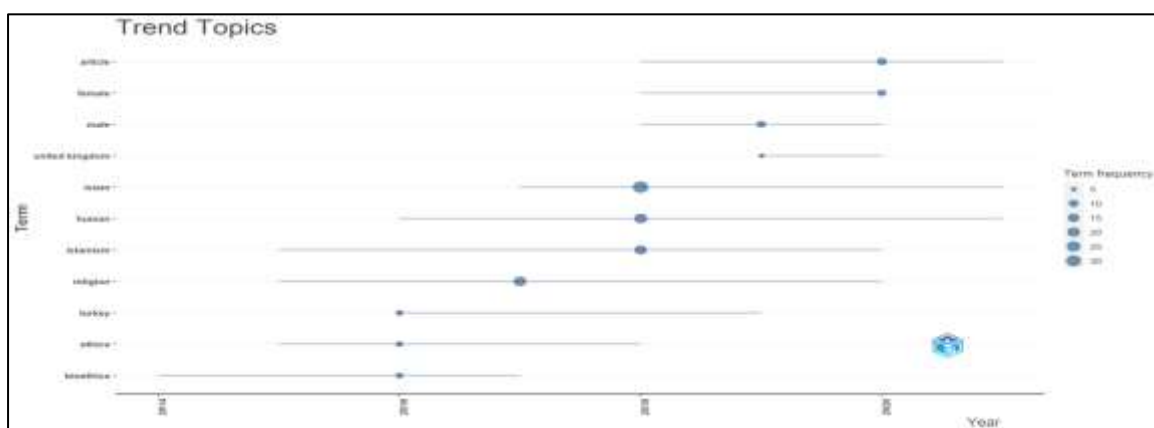


Figure 10. Trending topics

10. Tree map: The tree map data provides a comprehensive overview of the distribution of keywords in the study of Islamic theology. In this case, "Islam" is the most frequently used keyword with 34 occurrences, and thus is a major influencer in various theological discussions, including discussions on cultural, social, and religious aspects. In addition, the two words "human" and "religion" mentioned 21 times emphasize this study of Islam in much larger religious contexts, also representing human values and religion in society (Wahid, 2024). For example, terms such as "theology" occur 18 times, while "Islamism" occurs 19 times, highlighting the growing attention to Islamist movements and theological discussions show in Figure 11. In addition, bioethics/ethics is found six times, indicating that there are serious ethical issues related to Islamic medical practice, while important keywords are categories such as gender (male/female) or morality/philosophy/psychology/politics. It shows what is currently being studied and provides direction for future research projects based on their findings and emerging trends in Islamic theology.

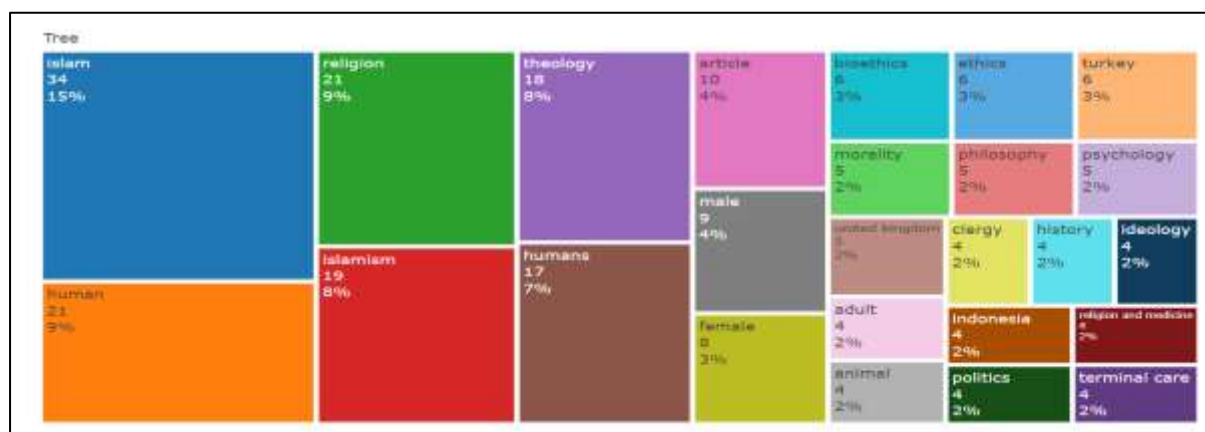


Figure 11. Tree Map

Co-citation network

The co-citation network data provides useful information about how frequently cited items are related to each other in the theological literature. The first cluster consists mainly of renowned scholars such as T. Asad, C. Taylor, S. Mahmood, and S. Ahmed, who significantly influence the development of the network shown in Figure 12. These authors have high centrality and page count values, indicating that they act as central nodes, thereby facilitating the spread of ideas and information in theological discourse. The importance of this cluster emphasizes its importance in contemporary theological debates/discussions (Özdemir & Selçuk, 2021). The second cluster, which includes T. Winter and S. Schmidtke, among others, acts as a bridge in the network. They are not as dominant as the first group; however, their high betweenness values suggest that their works often connect different clusters, increasing the flow of information throughout the network system. In addition, the third cluster, consisting of those with significant centrality, indicating that they contribute a lot to theology-based publications/facts. Finally, the fourth cluster, which also includes A. Schimmel, offers new perspectives that are still relevant, although less central than the three upper clusters previously represented, along with some other subordinates from my list that were omitted due to length constraints in this section (Dayé, 2023). Co-citation Network analysis shows that the structure and hierarchy of the theological literature are identifiable, which helps scholars understand the critical inputs, trends, and connections that determine the growth of theological knowledge.

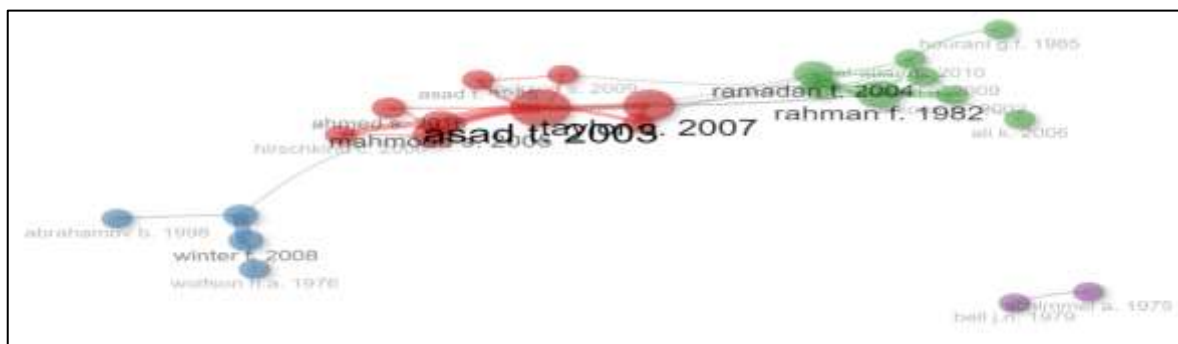


Figure 12. Co-citation network

A bibliometric analysis of Islamic theology research from 2013 to 2024 reveals a significant increase in publications, number of papers, and interdisciplinary approaches. The findings highlight both the need for partnerships between scholars and the impact of current events on Islamic theological debates. More research should be conducted to determine the implications of these developments for future research and to understand the complexity of Islamism in contemporary society as it is constantly changing.

DISCUSSION

Interpretation of the Results

Bibliometric analysis of Islamic theology research helps answer our research questions in several ways. The most important is the significant increase in the number of publications on this topic in recent years. This development indicates the growing attention of scholars and researchers to Islam as a topic related to their field. According to Latuconsina (2023), this tendency indicates that more and more scholars and researchers are becoming interested in Islamic theology as a topical topic in their field. Instead of looking at the teachings of specific schools, theologians today conduct historical, social, and cultural analyses that aim to present a holistic picture of how Muslims practice theology today.

More importantly, it has changed its focuses in a way that is closely related to contemporary religious practices and current sociocultural trends. Today's scholars are engaged in addressing theological concepts within the framework of other human experiences, such as ethics, politics, social justice, etc. This shows that religion is more than just an academic exercise, but something that is part of the daily life of Muslim communities around the world. Furthermore, the examination of collaborative networks between authors and institutions shows a significant movement towards international research. This points to a globalization in Islamic theological studies, where scholars from different continents and backgrounds come together to share their findings through data sharing (Anthony & Sterkens, 2020). Joint publications show that scholars have finally embraced interdisciplinary approaches and cross-cultural exchange, which adds value to discussions in this field. These gatherings need to be strengthened to address complex issues that transcend the boundaries of certain countries or cultures, such as bioethics, gender issues, and the impact of globalism on religion.

Comparison with Previous Research

The study of Islamic theology has taken a different turn since its inception. In the past, many of these studies focused on classical texts and the ideas of famous scholars, as well as specific doctrinal issues; they often involved examining the historical roots of traditional Islamic teachings or theological schools. However, they almost never examined current affairs or the experiences of Muslims (Yılmaz et al., 2024). However, the interdisciplinary approach has undergone a profound shift in this case. Therefore, scholars are investigating how theology merges with fields such as ethics, politics, sociology, and environmental studies. This paradigm shift means that theological discussions should be placed in a social framework that recognizes contemporary issues. For example, integrating bioethics into Islamic theology would help to address ethical issues related to advances in biotechnology. More importantly, our research shows that contemporary Islamic theology classes are participatory, as evidenced by the growth in contributors and international participation, which enhances conversations within academia.

Implications of the Findings

Furthermore, this study is important in Islamic theology. It has demonstrated the need for combined research and interdisciplinary research. Many disciplines can have meaningful conversations on many current Muslim issues. By bringing these issues together, fresh concepts emerge that answer questions such as how to develop biomedical sciences, gender equality, and the ethical dimension of the role of Islam in global politics.

In addition, there are various research themes that support multidisciplinary research in Islamic theology at universities. These include the establishment of research centers where academics from different fields can collaborate, providing grants for joint projects, and organizing roundtables with experts from other disciplines. They also demonstrate that scholars need to reach out to a wider audience beyond academia and policymakers. This also includes popularizing findings from outside academia on contemporary Islamic religious issues, which are key components of Islamic theological thought. Thus, it demonstrates the contemporary aspects of Islamic theology and emphasizes interdisciplinarity as a requirement. In such a context, there are multiple perspectives on the realization of existence as well as ongoing collaboration, intersubjective communion, and practical participation, making it a global issue for Muslims as well.

Practical Implications

The importance of this bibliometric study for scholars, institutions, and decision-makers cannot be overstated. In particular, the university must promote collaboration between scholars from different disciplines, as this will improve the quality and impact of research in Islamic theology. It is also necessary to increase funding for interdisciplinary projects that address contemporary issues in Islamic theology, which will encourage new thinking on the subject. This, in turn, will enable students to learn to solve complex theological problems that arise in everyday life. Therefore, those conducting it should involve religious leaders in their communities to educate them on various aspects of Islam and theology. Therefore, the transformation of Islamic theology into a modern phenomenon requires a joint effort based on collaboration and an interdisciplinary approach.

CONCLUSION

The bibliometric study of Islamic theological studies has yielded some important findings that indicate the growth and current trends of this discipline. First, there is an indication of the increase in the number of publications on Islamic theology in recent years, reflecting the increased interest of both scholars and researchers. This departure from focusing solely on traditional theological beliefs towards broader, interdisciplinary approaches such as ethics, politics, social issues, etc. Second, the global aspect is demonstrated by the striking growth in the connections between Muslim theologians of different nationalities. The latter helps to deepen our understanding of the current difficulties of Muslim society in relation to national or cultural boundaries and is essential for the joint solution of complex problems. Finally, certain emerging issues in Islamic theology, such as bioethics or the inclusion of gender studies, show how it responds to the challenges of contemporary societies. By approaching the religion in a more holistic and contextual way, it explains why Islamic teachings are valid in solving current dilemmas.

Recommendations for Future Research

The result of the study can therefore provide a reference point for future suggestions in Islamic theology research:

- Interdisciplinary research: Future research should therefore be interdisciplinary in order to deepen the connections between Islamic theology and other fields such as sociology, environmental studies and political science, in order to provide fresh insights and address current issues.
- Regional research: These should be more country-specific studies that examine how local contexts shape theological thinking and practice. This can reveal different perspectives on Islamic theology across cultures and peoples.
- Emerging themes: Researchers should focus on developing issues such as the impact of technology on religion, the role of social media in shaping religious discourse, and the ethical dilemmas associated with the development of biotechnology. Such issues are becoming increasingly important.
- Public engagement: Public engagement is a key priority area for future research that shares its findings with the wider community; it helps academia to reduce the distance from people's aspirations, which in turn contributes to a better understanding of contemporary Islamic theology.

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